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MELTON AND BELVOIR

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1949.

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MELTON AND BELVOIR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1949

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine:-

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	113,025
Registrar General's estimate of population	18,650
Number of inhabited houses	5,372
Rateable Value	£83,698
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 310

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Totals
Births - Legitimate	126	145	271
Illegitimate	7	5	12
	133	150	283

	Rate for District	Rate for England & Wales.	Rate for Leics.
Birth Rate	15.2	16.7	17.4
Death Rate	10.3	11.7	10.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	31	32	27

These statistics are satisfactory. The causes of death most prevalent are again those associated with advancing years.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	1
Influenza	1	1
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	1	
" " " " " uterus (F)		4
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	1	4
Cancer of the breast	-	5
Cancer of all other sites	17	7
Diabetes	1	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	15	12
Heart diseases	35	32
Other disorders of circulatory system	5	4
Bronchitis	6	8
Pneumonia	5	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	-
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1
Other digestive disorders	3	4
Nephritis	-	2
Premature birth	3	-
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infant diseases	1	1
Road traffic accident	1	-
Other violent causes	1	3
All other causes	11	14
	110	108

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949:-

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	21	2	-
Whooping Cough	38	-	-
Measles	230	-	-
Pneumonia	38	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	2	1	-
Typhoid Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-

Scarlet Fever. The majority of these cases were of a very mild type, only two requiring Hospital treatment.

Poliomyelitis. This disease again assumed epidemic form during the summer months of the year, and gave rise to some anxiety in Public Health Departments. In spite of continued research work the mode of spread of this disease has not yet been accurately determined. We escaped very lightly in this District with only two cases, one of which was of the non-paralytic type.

Typhoid Fever. This was a young man of 19 years. There was a history that shortly before the attack he had been bathing in the river Eye near where sewage effluent was discharged. Fortunately no secondary cases occurred.

Diphtheria. It is noteworthy that no case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under 1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	10	6	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	12	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	59	68	75	23	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	2	1	2	1	4	7	3	7	9
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-

T U B E R C U L O S I S

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	1
Over 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.).
Medical Officer of Health for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

L. Hesford - Sanitary Inspector
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board, Meat Inspector, Smoke Inspector.

W. P. Elliott - Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

A. L. Sleath - Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations were carried out during the year by the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester:-

Throat swabs	19
Sputum	18
Throat & nose swabs	3
Urine	4
Faeces	25
Blood	14
Cervical swab	2
Pus from abscess	1
" " ear	1
Milk	1
Water	14
Dundee cake	1
Sewage intake	2

The following examinations were also carried out in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Milk samples	388
Water	36

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	24
(b) from piped supply	12

Results of samples taken:-

from wells	- Satisfactory	10
	Unsatisfactory	14
from piped supply	Satisfactory	12
	Unsatisfactory	Nil

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Contd.)

Number of wells:

(a) closed	- Nil
(b) cleansed	7

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 198

Number of Parishes without a piped water supply 6

Number of houses now on piped supply 1732

Number of Parishes and part Parishes with piped water supply:-

(a) from public mains	15
(b) from private reservoirs ...	4

Sampling of some of the public wells has been carried out.

EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Broughton and Dalby, Clawson and Harby, Stathern, Waltham (Thorpe Arnold Ward), Eaton (Eastwell Ward), Somerby part, Burton and Dalby (Burton Ward), Sproxton (Sproxton and Saltby Wards), Gaddesby, Wymondham, Hoby and part of Scalford are supplied from the Council's mains.

Stand pipes are not provided, the services being laid on to the Consumer's premises.

There is no indication of any tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The Parishes of Belvoir, Buckminster (Buckminster Ward) and some farms and houses in Knossington (Cold Overton Ward), Croxton Kerrial and Grimston (Saxelbye Ward) are supplied by private piped supplies.

The rest of the District is supplied from public and private wells. The majority of the wells are 'shallow wells' of doubtful quality, and in many cases insufficient in quantity during dry periods.

Shortages have been experienced, particularly in Grimston and Saxelbye, and it was necessary to restrict supplies during the summer and autumn months on the Joint Water Supply Scheme, and to cart water to the villages of Garthorpe, Grimston and Barkeston.

The Council are at present investigating sources of supply with a view to providing a piped water supply throughout the whole of the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1949	304
Number of cesspools abolished during the year	1
Number of cesspools constructed during the year	3

2.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1949:-

(a) Privies	403
(b) Pail Closets	3088
(c) Water Closets	1632

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There has been considerable improvement in the operation of the public cleansing service during the year 1949. During the year the labour shortage has been practically overcome and the delivery of new vehicles has reduced to a minimum the delays due to breakdowns which were a feature of the previous years. During the year the Council have also changed their mode of nightsoil collection and now employ two purpose-made cesspool emptiers on this work, which has enabled the work to be carried out during the daylight hours instead of as previously at night. This has also resulted in improved efficiency.

Household refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping methods. The disposal of nightsoil has presented some difficulty, many farmers being reluctant to accept this as a manure for the land. An effort was made to dispose of it through the sewers and sewage disposal works in the area but this was not found to be a satisfactory method of disposal unless the nightsoil was considerably diluted. To enable this to be done it would be necessary to instal a number of tanks with abundant water supply and the cost of the same does not seem to warrant such expense. The Council will therefore continue for the timebeing the practice of disposing nightsoil to any farmer willing to accept same.

The nightsoil service is a heavy expense and the Council have under consideration the question of provision of adequate sewage works and the compulsory conversion of pail closets to water closets with a view to the gradual abolition of this service.

The Council do not at the moment undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools within their area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	...	486
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	271

	Inspections	Re-visits
Animal keeping	1	2
Bakehouses	43	17
Dairies and cowsheds	238	106
Drainage works	207	166
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	1871	208
Food premises	43	17
Rats and mice destruction	1295	1036
Refuse collection and disposal	465	171
Shops	33	10
Schools	2	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	19	14
Verminous premises	4	3
Water supplies	136	36
Workshops, etc.	28	11
Other inspections	62	38
	4447	1839

N O T I C E S

Preliminary	Housing	Other
Outstanding on 1st January	4	2
Issued during the year	12	1
Complied with during year	16	-
Statutory action necessary	3	-
Outstanding 31st December	3	-
Statutory		
Outstanding 1st January	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year	3	-
Complied with during year	2	-
Outstanding 31st December	1	Nil

SHOPS

Action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934:-

	Outstanding from previous year	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Outstanding 31st Dec.
Sanitary Conveniences	-	7	7	Nil
Temperature	-	-	-	-
Ventilation	-	-	-	-

REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses - There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. - There are 14 Vans in the District and 19 inspections were made

1 family re-housed and undertaking given not to re-let.

The increase in the number of these Vans is due to the housing shortage, and whilst they are kept in a reasonable condition from a cleanliness point of view the majority of them are overcrowded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

	Cowkeepers	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.
Number on the Register	832	220
Number of inspections of premises	297	92
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	7	10
Number of contraventions found during the year	16	3
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	21	13
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	2	Nil

Total Contraventions

	Outstanding from previous year	Found during year	Remedied during yr.	Outstanding 31st Dec.
Cleansing	8	15	23	Nil
Structural alterations	2	2	2	2
Utensils	7	2	9	Nil
Other	-	-	-	-

105 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 85 being satisfactory and 20 unsatisfactory.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 & 1938.

Two supplementary licences have been issued in respect of pasteurised milk. One Pasteurising Plant has been licensed and one bottling licence for "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was granted.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Private Slaughter Houses:-

Number of knacker yards in the district	...	1
Number of visits to knacker yards	...	5

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc:-

Number of inspections	... ...	29

PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) ARE KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE

Number of inspections	... ...	67

H O U S I N G

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	757
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	816
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	704
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	704
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	43

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 25

(3) HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(1) (a) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year 151
(b) Number of families dwelling therein 187
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein 645

(2) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 63

(3) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 88

(4) Number of persons concerned in such cases 366

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

97 new houses were completed and occupied at the end of 1949. There were about 600 applicants on the Council's Housing List, new applications are being received daily. It is therefore obvious that this is one of the most serious problems which confronts the Council.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1946.

Under the requirements of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1946, it was necessary to arrange for the burial of destitute persons who died in the district. Two persons were buried.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
Melton Mowbray.

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

National Health Service Act, 1946

Section 26 - Diphtheria Immunisation.

Melton & Belvoir Rural District.

Number of children who were immunised during the period 1st January - 31st December, 1949.

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Age at 31.12.49 i.e.	born in year	Primary Immunisation	Booster Dose.
Under 1	1949	13	-
1	1948	131	-
2	1947	29	-
3	1946	4	-
4	1945	-	7
5	1944	-	43
6	1943	-	14
7	1942	-	4
8	1941	-	2
9	1940	-	1
10	1939	-	1
11	1938	-	-
12	1937	-	2
13	1936	-	-
14	1935	-	1
		177	75